

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) The process for preparing an albumin preparation wherein an albumin-containing solution is subject to a step of filtration with a virus-removing membrane before a step of heat treatment sufficient to inactivate virus in a liquid state;

wherein said process comprises treating the albumin-containing solution with an anion exchanger and/or a prefilter before a step of filtration with a virus-removing membrane.

3. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing an albumin preparation according to claim 2 wherein said virus-removing membrane used in a step of filtration with a virus-removing membrane has a pore size of 10 to 20 nm.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) The process for preparing an albumin preparation of claim 2 comprising using said prefilter, wherein said prefilter has a pore size of 35 to 200 nm.

6. (Original) A process for pretreating an albumin-containing solution before a step of filtration with a virus-removing membrane which comprises treating said albumin-containing solution with an anion exchanger and/or a prefilter before a step of filtration of said albumin-containing solution with a virus-removing membrane.

7. (Original) The process for pretreating an albumin-containing solution of claim 6 wherein said prefilter used in said treatment has a pore size of 35 to 200 nm.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

10. (New) A process for preparing an albumin preparation substantially free of virus, comprising
treating an initial albumin-containing solution with an anion exchanger and/or a prefilter, wherein the prefilter has a pore size 35 to 200 nm;
then subjecting the albumin-containing solution to filtration through a virus-removing membrane having a pore size of 10 to 20 nm; and
next heat treating the albumin-containing solution to inactivate any remaining virus.

11. (New) The process of claim 10 wherein, in the first step, the albumin-containing solution is treated with said anion exchanger.

12. (New) The process of claim 10 wherein, in the first step, the albumin-containing solution is treated with said prefilter.